

# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Department of Natural Resources

Room 1040

January 11, 2005

## Minutes

### Member Present:

SOWARDS, Glade – Utah Energy Office  
MILLIS, Eric – Division of Water Resources  
HARTY, Kimm – Utah Geological Survey  
CANNING, Mike – Division of Wildlife Resources  
WILCOX, Richard – School & Institutional Trust Lands  
CLARK, Robert – DEQ/Air Quality  
MORTON, Loren – DEQ/Division of Radiation Control  
WILDE, Kenneth – DEQ/Division of Drinking Water  
DANIELS, Ron – Division of Oil, Gas & Mining  
KAPPE, Karl – Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands  
WATANABE, Judy – DPS/Emergency Services & Homeland Security  
HOWARD, Ty – DEQ/Division of Environment Response and Remediation  
SCHLOTTHAUER, Bill – Division of Water Rights

### Others Present:

WRIGHT, Carolyn – Department of Natural Resources  
LANDURETH, Brenda – Department of Natural Resources  
FROST, Kim – Department of Natural Resources  
HIGDON, Matthew – Bureau of Land Management  
HARJA, John – Department of Natural Resources

Glade Sowards called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.

## **I. Approval of Minutes**

### **Corrections to the minutes:**

Kimm Harty, suggested deleting “Kim Frost” from the “Members Present” list and leaving her name under “Others Present.” Karl Kappe made a motion to approve the December 14, 2004 minutes, and Kimm Harty seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

## **II. Special Presentations/Discussions**

Kim Frost initiated the election discussion and nominations for a new chair and vice-chair. Glade Sowards’ term has ended. John Harja stated that RDCC is an information/coordination committee. He provided a brief overview of duties of these positions and introduced staff members. The new administration has not extended Wes Curtis, State Planning Coordinator. Mike Keene, State Science Advisor, was not extended and statute requires this position on this committee. Gayle McKeachnie may be a focal point for planning efforts. A statutory code change may be necessary. Several directors, legislators and others support RDCC.

RDCC is becoming more important due to the number of U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management planning efforts. Recently, the USFS changed the focus of planning efforts from land zoning/allocation plans to strategic visionary documents that describe the desire future conditions. RDCC will provide input on these visionary planning

efforts.

The purpose of RDCC is playing an important role in these planning efforts. The RDCC bill will sunset and expire the end of June. Senator Doug Evans has sponsored a new bill to extend RDCC for another five years.

Bill Schlotthauer moved to table the election discussion pending further information and Kim Frost will temporarily serve as an interim chair. Kimm Harty seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

### **III. Reports from Agencies on Any Anticipated Projects**

Department of Natural Resources' comments are due to Kim Frost on Friday, February 4, 2005, for DNR coordination on the final Draft Environmental Impact Statement Remediation of the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Project #4720, on the Project Management Library (PML). Other agencies please send your comments directly to Carolyn Wright by the same date. The final draft was published in November 2004. Removal of the tailings is supported due to several issues including river migration across the floodplain, potential river flooding transporting contaminants, undercutting/erosion and groundwater contamination. U.S. Geological Survey is working on river modeling. The Department of Energy may not be interested in moving the tailings. Governor Walker officially supported moving the tailings on December 29, 2004. Making a total of five western governors also support this effort.

Ron Daniels, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM), has been working on major rule-making effort. The Utah Mining Association has submitted comments. Last week outreach meetings/diners were conducted with the Utah Petroleum Association to provide petroleum, oil and gas information to state legislators.

Kenneth Wilde, Division of Drinking Water, reported that flooding in Washington County has damaged drinking water systems. The county has requested emergency funding from the Department of Environmental Quality to assist with infrastructure damage. The St. George well field may be impacted. The state may request federal emergency funding.

Arsenic rule is required by January 2006. Magna, Utah has a large water project to remove arsenic and per chlorate from some of the wells. This is an \$18 million dollar project. St. George also has a well field (Gunlock) requiring \$15 million arsenic removal that is currently flooded.

Central Iron County is interested in installing a regional water system. The Drinking Water Board provided the county with a \$45,000 planning loan. Ongoing development in Cedar City has initiated several requests for funding to connect several small water systems into one new water district. This will cost 6-7 million dollars.

Eric Millis, reported that the Division of Water Resources (DWRe) has suspended cloud seeding efforts in the Washington County area because it is the first time since the 1980s that this area had receive 200 percent of normal snow pack. Cloud seeding was also

suspended in the Uinta Basin and the Upper Sevier Basin.

The DWRe is working with the Bureau of Reclamation and the Water Conservancy District to continue the aquifer storage recovery pilot project into 2025. Submitted a new project on the PML, Santaquin project proposal.

Ty Howard, Division of Environmental Response and Remediation, reported that the Brown Fields Bill legislation sponsored by Representative Mansel will provide contribution liability relief. Eureka and Sharon Steel projects are moving forward.

Kimm Harty, Utah Geological Survey, reported that the snow pack and potential landslide areas are being closely monitored due to recent snow and rain events.

Matthew Higdon, Bureau of Land Management, announced that the Vernal Resource Management Plan (RMP) 90-day comment period begins on Friday, January 14, 2005 ending on April 14, 2005. Actually comments need to be completed in approximately 40 days to allow for local government review. The Vernal RMP, Salt Lake City meeting will be held on February 24, 2005, from 6:00-8:00 p.m., at the Salt Lake City Library. Air quality may be an important issue in the Vernal Basin.

The Kanab Field Office RMP is kicking off their first public scoping meeting on January 13, 2005, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m., at the Airport Hilton, Salt Lake City. Other scoping meetings will be held in January. The comment period begins this month.

St. George, Utah is working on a Travel Management Plan for their field office to go with their Land Use Management Plan. Scoping meetings dates have been changed to February 2 and 3, 2005.

Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 of the Draft Richfield RMP were reviewed by RDCC. Chapter 4, Environmental Consequences draft (three-day review) will be available for review January 18-21, 2005. John Harja, Val Payne and Kim Frost will notify RDCC members if there are any important issues.

The Draft Richfield RMP is scheduled to be released to the public on April 11, 2005. After 90-days after this the Final Price RMP may be completed.

Last summer, Sheldon Whimmer, BLM Fire Lead and Matthew Higdon overview of all of the BLM land use management plans to update for amendment policy on fuels and wildland fire management. A recent BLM draft statewide environmental assessment will be ready for comment by RDCC in March/April. He will send a copy to Dave Darylmpole and John Harja.

Michael Canning, Division of Wildlife Resources, reported that the Utah Wolf Working Group will release a wolf management plan will be ready for review within a few months.

Judy Watenabe, Division of Emergency Services, announced that the Federal Emergency

Management Agency (FEMA) has provided funding to create new floodplain delineation maps for Cache, Davis, and Washington counties to provide an opportunity to obtain flood insurance. Hopefully, additional federal funding will allow for additional flood maps. FEMA's goal is to map every county. Competitive pre-disaster mitigation grants for projects to help reduce disasters.

Robert Clark, Division of Air Quality, reported that the ozone Maintenance Plan is in progress for the State Implementation Plan. Part of a workgroup that is looking at emission factors from western states oil and gas mines. Environ contractors will be gathering information from DOGM. Emissions from pipelines, oil and gas wells, compressor stations more significant factors than anticipated.

The Division of Air Quality will coordinate with the BLM on smoke management planning to make all state efforts consistent.

Kim Frost reported that the Ashley National Forest, Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility Draft Report requires a quick turn around before it goes out for county review. Contact Kim Frost if you are interested in reviewing this document.

Bill Schlotthauer, Division of Water Rights (DWRi), reported that Jared Manning will be replacing Jim Riley's position serving as the acting Utah Lake/Jordan River Regional Engineer.

On January 4, 2005, the Nevada State Engineer issued a decision on 6-8 applications filed to appropriate water from valleys to the north and the west of Las Vegas, Nevada (also valleys in Clark and Lincoln Counties). Review the Nevada's State Engineer's website ([water.nv.gov](http://water.nv.gov)) for more information about the Southern Nevada Water Authority Project or contact Kimball Goddard, District Chief in Carson City, Nevada. U.S. Geological Survey is the lead agency. A scoping meeting will be held in Ely, Nevada next month. This agency is leading the water study of the Snake Valley and the surrounding area. Groundwater withdrawal issues could impact Utah. The aquifer recharges in Nevada and discharges in Utah. The official Utah representative is Boyd Clayton, DWRi. Utah Geological Survey has nearly completed a report of the area and are coordinating efforts on this project to determine if this proposal will impact Utah. Utah and Nevada must agree on water allocation. Project overview information in the planning document can be viewed on the Southern Nevada Water Authority website at [www.snwa.com](http://www.snwa.com) (Water Resources/Water Resource Plan). The study is proposing a well field on the east slope of the Snake Range below Wheeler Peak pumping the alluvial aquifer and the deep carbonate aquifer. Wells would interception of the water that would be flowing into Utah. This may have impacts out to Fish Springs.

Glade Sowards, Utah Energy Office (UEO), reported that the Energy Policy Task Force and others have prepared legislation that would move responsibility for drafting an Energy Emergency Plan from UEO to the Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security (ESHS). It was decided that ESHS would work on this planning effort and several other state agencies may be involved. Representative Cheryl Allen is sponsoring a bill that would

make the proposed changes. Energy emergency and policy planning recommendations were supported by the task force.

Nykole Littleboy will be working on renewable energy programs including wind and solar projects.

**IV. Review of Proposed Items as Listed on the Project Management Library**

Karl Kappe asked what the state's office position on the Moab Tailings Remediation #4720, and #4659, proposal to move mine tailings off-site to protect aquatic resources.

**V. Other Discussion Topics**

Elections for the chair and vice-chair have been tabled. Kim Frost will temporarily conduct meetings

**VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 a.m. The next meeting will be held on February 8, 2005, at 9:00 a.m., in room 1050.

The minutes were approved with a minor change on February 8, 2005